

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: May 3, 2006
Contact: Trooper M.H. Lewis, Tacoma
(253) 536-6210 – office
(253) 606-1998 – cell/pager

A CAR VERSUS POWER POLE COLLISION KILLS ONE IN THURSTON COUNTY

A Dalles, Oregon man was killed after his vehicle left the roadway and hit a cement retaining wall then collided with a power pole.

The May 2nd incident occurred at 7:16 p.m. when the State Patrol received a report of a car versus power pole collision on Case Road SW just south of Cumberland Avenue SW. Witnesses advised that the power pole was falling onto the roadway.

36-year-old Ray E. Niko of Dalles, Oregon was driving a black 1988 Chevrolet Caprice northbound on Case Road SW when he veered into the southbound lanes, left the roadway, hitting a cement retaining wall with its left front end. The Caprice then rotated striking a power pole with the passenger side and continued to rotate coming to a stop facing east.

Although Niko was wearing a seat belt at the time of the collision; he sustained life threatening injuries and died at the scene.

According to investigating Troopers at the scene, speed and alcohol appear to be the contributing factors in this preventable tragic collision.

Thurston County Utility crews advised that Case Road SW will be closed until approximately 4:00 a.m. to repair and replace the damaged power pole.

NEXT OF KIN HAS BEEN NOTIFIED

